

# THE COLONNADE

The Official Student Newspaper of Georgia College

## 16-year-old activist speaks on climate change

See page 3 for more details.



Photo by McKenzie Julian, staff writer

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Baseball playoffs set to begin, pg. 5

A look in Milledgeville Film Festival, pg. 7







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## About This Issue...

The news section details 16-year-old climate activist Xiuhtezcatl Martinez’s presentation at GC’s annual Sustainability Fee Symposium, explains how avoidable residential break-ins are frustrating Milledgeville police, and provides an overview of SGA Vice President Terrell Davis’ contributions during his time at GC.

This week in sports recaps the baseball team’s season as they head into postseason play, as well as ways to relieve stress during finals week.

This week, A&E features a preview of the

upcoming Milledgeville Film Festival, as well as the final Bobcats Speak Out of the year.

Join us next fall for pitch meetings in The Colonnade Office, located in MSU 128.

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# News

Isaiah Smith, Asst. News Editor  
April 26-May 5, 2017 Emily McClure, News Editor

## 16-year-old activist speaks on climate change

**McKenzie  
Julian**  
*Staff Writer*

On Thursday, April 20, climate activist Xiuhtezcatl Martinez spoke to more than 200 Georgia College students during an Earth Week event on the importance of sustainability and what they can do to help the environment.

"I think the first thing that's really important is to establish a sense of passion to do something, an interest," Martinez said. "Be educated about the issues and then connect with other people that are on that same level."

Martinez began speaking about climate change and the importance of environmental action when he was 6 years old. Over the past decade, he has traveled across the world and spoken to thousands of people in hopes to inspire them to action and to create change.

In 2015, Martinez, along with 20 other youth leaders, filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government on the basis of the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness granted to citizens under the Constitution. Martinez believes that the government has failed to act responsibly on the issue of climate change.

"It is a fundamental right to have a stable climate to protect these constitutional rights,"

Martinez said.

The government filed a motion to dismiss in order to prevent Martinez from going to court, but the motion was reviewed and overturned by two judges from different federal courts in Eugene, Oregon. Martinez and the other plaintiffs have a court date that should be scheduled for sometime this fall.

"We're very optimistic about it. We've made a lot of progress thus far, and there's a lot of momentum worldwide," Martinez said. He also said that he and his fellow plaintiffs "are super excited about this issue and the possibility this has to actually create some tangible, long-lasting change."

Emma Brodzik, senior economics major and SGA's director of environmental affairs, helped the Office of Sustainability bring Martinez to GC. Brodzik, along with the rest of the Sustainability Council, has been planning this event since August for the annual Sustainability Symposium.

The symposium is put on each year using funds earned through the sustainability fee students pay each semester. The goal of the symposium is to bring in a speaker or have some form of activity in which students can get involved and learn more about practical ways they can take part in environmental action.

Brodzik said she was excited



McKenzie Julian / Staff Photographer

Martinez (right) has spoken all over the world, including at the United Nations.

to bring in Martinez.

"He's kind of famous in his own right, which has been really exciting learning more about him as we've gotten closer to bringing him here," Brodzik said.

Front Campus was filled with about 250 students interested in hearing Martinez's story. Senior environmental science and geography double major Jessica Craigg said she found Martinez's speech interesting.

"I think he was really well-spoken. I think he made a lot of

good points about the connections between minority communities and women and them being disproportionately affected by climate change," Craigg said.

Martinez spoke about the many climate change issues the world is currently facing and what he is doing to try to make a difference.

"He was very empowering," said Andrew Wright, senior environmental science major. "Seeing the change that he's doing and the stuff that all these people

that turned out [do] and want to hear about this issue makes me feel so much better about what's going on."

Jake Deitch, junior environmental science major, took Martinez's message to heart. He said he believes that students and youth can make a difference in their communities and protect the earth.

"We have a voice, and we have a passion for this," he said. "It's our only home, so why not protect it? Why not speak out?"

## Avoidable home break-ins frustrate local police

**Emily  
Jackson**  
*Contributing Writer*

The Milledgeville Police Department attributes a string of residential break-ins to poor security practices in off-campus student housing in recent years.

According to the patrol commander of the Milledgeville Police Department, Major John Davis, students are disregarding steps as simple as locking their doors to keep themselves and their belongings safe.

Ben Arduino is a junior at GC who lives at a house on West McIntosh Street with seven other male students. Their house

has been robbed twice in the past two years.

"The first incident was in 2015 on a Sunday night, probably around 5 or 6 o'clock p.m.," Arduino said. "We didn't have a doorknob so our door literally just pushed open, plus all the lights were off, so clearly no one was home."

They realized the next day that many of their belongings were not where they had left them, and hundreds of dollars worth of Xbox games were missing, along with some cash and an old iPod.

At the time of the robbery, other valuables were in plain sight such as laptops, an Xbox, and a Bose speaker, none of which were stolen.

"They took small, non-

traceable things," Arduino said.

After this incident, the residents of the house got a doorknob and started locking the door when no one was home, but that wasn't enough to prevent another robbery.

In December 2016, the house was broken into again while the residents were out of town on winter break. This time, all the doors were locked, and the thief appeared to have broken into the house by prying open a window using a hammer and a railroad tie.

When the students returned from winter break, they found that their Xbox was stolen along with cash which had been raised to send middle school kids to Young Life camp.

"Drawers were dumped out on

people's beds, so we know they went through each room looking for stuff," Arduino said.

Another resident of the house decided to file a police report after it happened the second time, but there were no eyewitnesses to the crime.

No one has been taken into custody at this time, but Davis advises students to take anything of value out of cars and to bring home valuables during extended breaks from school. He also encourages students to use the Milledgeville Police Department's House Check-up program whenever they leave town.

Liz Beaudry, mother of GC sophomore Amelia Beaudry, said she has heard about the residential

break-ins in Milledgeville and is concerned about the safety of her daughter who currently lives in an apartment with one other girl.

"Parents are most definitely talking," Beaudry said. "It would be in the best interest of the school to come out with a statement about what will be done to keep students safe and parents at ease."

GC Public Safety's Lt. Gary Purvis recommends that students living in off-campus housing ensure proper exterior lighting, trimmed hedges, and an alarm system, if possible. He also suggests students write down the serial numbers of valuable electronics to increase the chances of getting them back in the case of a robbery.



# SGA VP reflects on 4 years of change at GC

**Isaiah Smith**

*Assistant News Editor*

**Emily McClure**

*News Editor*

Student Government Association Vice President Terrell Davis remembers feeling a sense of culture shock when he first arrived at GC four years ago.

"It was a challenge my first two or three weeks here," Davis said. "For this to be an institution within a community that is more balanced when it comes to racial and ethnic backgrounds, it was really different because I knew Milledgeville, but I didn't know GC."

Davis knew attending GC would be different from how he grew up, having attended a predominately African-American high school in his hometown of Sparta, Georgia.

"I chose GC because I wanted to experience something that wasn't in my comfort zone," Davis said. "I wanted an environment to engage with people who had different perspectives and see how they all engaged with my worldview."

Despite enjoying the challenge early on, Davis soon realized the true lack of diversity on campus and decided to become a part of the solution. He knew this required stepping outside of his comfort zone and getting involved on campus.

Though some hesitate to take this step, Davis embraced it. It was something he had looked forward to when he decided to attend GC.

Davis, a senior mass communication major, credits several organizations and individuals for helping and encouraging him to get out of his comfort zone and tackle GC's diversity issue head-on. Among the most influential for him was his mentor Emmanuel Little.

Little, GC's director of the Call Me MISTER Program and minority retention, noticed something different about Davis from the beginning.

"When I first met Terrell, I was impressed by his professionalism and his composure," Little said. "Even as a high school student, he moved with a sense of purpose."

Although Davis didn't become involved in GC's Student Government Association until his sophomore year, he had known he wanted to be involved in government since he watched Barack Obama become president in 2008.

"When he became president, I felt like that was a major turn for my life," Davis said. "I wouldn't say that I saw myself being a president then, but I saw myself being able to defy odds and make something happen."

Davis said that one day, as he watched Obama running for president alongside



Emily McClure / Staff Photographer

Davis will graduate in May.

his aunt, she said it would be a blessing to see him become president before she died. About three weeks after Obama was elected, his aunt passed on Thanksgiving day.

"I think all of that very drastic stuff happening made me feel like I've got to make both her and Barack Obama proud," Davis said.

Davis was first appointed to SGA as a senator in 2014 and again in the spring of 2015 before running again in the fall of 2015 and serving as president pro tempore that school year. In fall of 2016, he ran for vice president and was elected alongside President Laura Ahrens.

"I met Terrell freshman year when we both served on SGA, and we've gotten closer this year with him serving as vice president," Ahrens said. "He's very passionate about diversity and always offers a unique and rational perspectives in all of conversations."

Davis said he has been proud to work on SGA's diversity initiative, as well as be involved with GC's Black Student Alliance, GEM program, the cultural center, and Male Connection, along with many other organizations on campus.

He said that even just during his tenure at GC, he has seen an increase in diversity within the student body.

"We've made a lot of progress, but we still have a long way to go," Davis said. "But it's a good time for us because we're on that edge, and we've just got to keep climbing."

Davis said he hopes to one day combine his major focus in strategic communication with his interest in government by acting as a press secretary for a state or federal government office.

"Communication and writing is a very difficult thing when you have so many people involved in that, because you're telling a story and you have to make sure that it's clear and concrete," Davis said. "If I can create channels of communication that are transparent and effective, that's my dream."

## THIS WEEK AT GC

**A calendar of events**

**Sound Sculptures XII Concert**

**Thurs. April 27th @ 7:30 p.m.**

**McComb Building**

This electronic concert will feature Georgia College student voices of protest and uncertainty and will be directed by Douglas Bassett and David H. Johnson.



**Lavender Graduation**

**Fri. April 28th @ 4 p.m.**

**Location TBA**

The sixth annual Lavender Graduation is a cultural ceremony that serves to celebrate graduating LGBT students and their allies.



**BCM Formal: Luau Edition**

**Fri. April 28th @ 7 p.m.**

**BCM House**

The Baptist Collegiate Ministry spring formal, "A Lei'd Back Evening," will be a night of Hawaiian shirts, dancing, fellowship, snacks and music.



**JazzFest 2017**

**Sat. April 29th @ 3 p.m.**

**Front Campus**

Jazz bands from local schools will participate in the festival, along with a sunset concert by the GC Jazz Band, featuring internationally-renowned saxophonist Jeff Coffin.



**All Week Long**

**Art Exhibit in SAC**

The GC Milledgeville Museums and Galleries Student Association has sponsored an exhibition of student art on the third floor of the Student Activities Center in the hallway in front of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. The exhibit may be viewed daily until April 27.

**For more information, visit [frontpage.gcsu.edu](http://frontpage.gcsu.edu).**



# Sports

Madi Harty, Asst. Sports Editor

April 26-May 5, 2017 Chris Lambert, Sports Editor

## Bobcat bats hot heading into tournament play



Photo Courtesy of Ada Montgomery

Brandon Benson awaits a pitch. Benson currently leads the Peach Belt Conference in home runs with 20 and RBIs with 68.

**Chris Lambert**  
*Sports Editor*

With only four games left before the Peach Belt Conference tournament begins, the GC baseball team is hitting their stride at just the right moment. Winners of 11

of their last 13 games, the Bobcats have posted double-digit runs in seven of those games and lead the PBC with 428 runs scored.

Many of those runs can be attributed to the white-hot bat of senior shortstop Brandon Benson. Benson is leading the

Peach Belt with 20 home runs and 68 RBIs.

“It’s really just been all about staying focused,” Benson said. “I’m trying to find that middle ground between being aggressive and being smart, being aggressive enough to get after it, but smart enough that I’m swinging at good pitches.”

Benson’s partner on the left side of the infield, freshman third baseman Cal Gentry, started strong and has continued that pace heading into the playoffs. Gentry leads the PBC in batting average, hitting .438 in his first year of college baseball. Head coach Jason Eller is almost at a loss for words when it comes to Gentry’s success.

“What can you even say about it? He’s been so good,” Eller said. “As a coach, you almost don’t even know what to do. You don’t want to mess with him, and you don’t want to put too much pressure on

him.”

As for Gentry, he attributes his success mostly to his teammates.

“I’m just glad I’ve been able to help the team out,” Gentry said. “It’s been a huge team effort this season, and going into the playoffs, with all the brothers I’ve made on this team, I’m really looking forward to it.”

The Bobcats will look to continue their success on the mound as well. Three pitchers are ranked in the top 25 in ERA, with Brady Walsh at sixth in the Peach Belt with a 2.80 ERA. Walsh is also in the top 15 in wins, with five.

GC is ranked third in the PBC with a 28-11 overall record and 14-8 conference record. The PBC tournament begins after the Bobcats finish a non-conference road series against Auburn University of Montgomery on April 28 -- 30.

**GO BOBCATS**  
**THE ORMOND FAMILY**

# Finals week stress relievers for students

**Madi Harty**

*Assistant Sports Editor*

Stress is an inevitable part of life, especially for a college student. With upcoming final exams, student's stress levels are growing exponentially. One way to manage your stress is to exercise or to play a sport with your friends.

Students know how easy it is to get bogged down with school and all the rigors that come with it. Stress can give you headaches, harm your health and make it difficult to perform daily tasks. When you are stressed, your whole body feels it.

Exercise is a vital way to improve your mental fitness. Physical activity can also improve your ability

to sleep, which can reduce your stress levels. Any form of exercise or any sport can act as a stress reliever.

"I love to go running. I feel like I am in my own world, separated from the stress of school," said junior Tori Pitts.

Going out for a run or using a treadmill is one of the top forms of exercise to relieve stress. Students love to throw some earplugs in, listen to music and run.

If running isn't your thing, there are plenty of other forms of physical activity that can relieve your stress. Simply going for a 30-minute walk is a great outlet from stress.

"I like to go on walks or runs," said sophomore Abbey Chakolos. "I usually listen to music while I run, and it helps me to clear my brain and relax."

Distance walking and biking are two forms of

exercise that can also provide a peaceful view.

"I just love cruising through the city on a bicycle because you can see a bunch of stuff and cover big distances in a short time," said sophomore Evan Block, a physics major.

Also, going to the gym to play basketball with your friends makes exercising fun and keeps you moving. Meditation or yoga is another way to stay active and to separate yourself from the stress of school. Yoga involves sitting comfortably and focusing on your breathing while bringing attention to the present without concentrating on your concerns.

Stress doesn't have to take over your life. So go out for a run on the Greenway, or go play Spikeball with your friends -- just stay active! Although you can't eliminate stress, you can learn to manage it.

# #BOBCATNATION

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# BBN

**BOBCAT BROADCAST NETWORK**





# Features, Shorts, Panels, Action

*Annual film festival expands, students prepare for opening night*

**Kaylin Martinko**  
Staff Writer

The fourth annual Milledgeville Film Festival is coming up, with the promise of a wide range of films, panels, workshops and networking opportunities. The festival features films of every genre from all over the world. There are over 460 submissions from 40 different countries this year.

Michael Gillett, a film archivist and graphic designer, said he always has a lot of fun. "It's cool to see all of the networking opportunities," Gillett said. "You get to meet people from all over the world, seeing all types of films, but they all kind of come together and speak the same language, which is film."

Gillett said that there's something for everyone at the Milledgeville Film Festival.

"What we're doing this year is kind of broadening the topics," Gillett said. "We get everything from music videos to horror shorts, feature length films, and documentary shorts."

Ian McNeal, a political science major and community board member, has participated in this festival since 2015. McNeal said the Milledgeville Film Festival is a great way to be involved in alternate interests outside of his major and GC organizations.

McNeal said that one of his favorite things about the Milledgeville Film Festival each year is the variety of panels it offers.

"I really enjoy the industry panels, and they've been getting better as the festival continues to grow," McNeal said. "I remember two years ago there were only a couple of panels, and now there's a variety of them."

Gillett said this year is unlike any year before, because the festival will be featuring even more types of films and panels than they have in the past. Along with the different film genres and panels offered, some of the films are even shown in off-campus locations, such as Andalusia Farm and Central State Hospital.

Skyler Wilkes, a theatre major and box office manager for the Milledgeville Film Festival, is particularly intrigued by the networking opportunities available at the festival.

"I'm interested in the panels and seeing what the actors and filmmakers have to say, as well as just being involved in the whole atmosphere of it," Wilkes said. "It's a good way to get involved with the community outside of school."

"We can support all kinds of filmmakers and what their passions are," said Jonathan Berry, a theatre major and student volunteer. "It's also very welcoming and helps out all of the businesses in downtown Milledgeville."

McNeal said the importance of this event is not to be understated, and that the Milledgeville Film Festival helps bridge the gap between the Milledgeville community and the college.

"We can show what Georgia College and Milledgeville are capable of," McNeal said. "Not only are we showcasing this great event, but we are also showcasing content that has been created by Milledgeville creators and students."

The Milledgeville Film Festival will take place April 26 -- April 30, and tickets are available online at [milledgevillefilmfest.com](http://milledgevillefilmfest.com).

"I think it's really important to bring in people from different perspectives, different walks of life, and different experiences," Gillett said. "It also gives students a chance to learn from industry professionals. You get a chance to see what they have to offer us, but they also get to learn from us."



Maggie Foster (right) and Wilson Taylor (left), two student volunteers, pose on the red carpet while tabling for the upcoming festival. Many GC students help run the festival every year.

Photo courtesy of Emily Davis

**CONGRATULATIONS  
BOBCATS!  
CLASS OF 2017**



**Q:** If you had a band going on world tour this summer, what would your band be called and where would you stop first?

Compiled and photographed by Mary Kate Conner



“The Charming Dipthongs. Indianapolis would be the first stop”  
- Kevin Morris, a senior and double major in history and economics



“The Berry-Tones. Our first stop is Amsterdam.”  
- Jonathan Berry, a sophomore and theatre major



“The Backside Attackers. That’s a chemistry term. I would go to London.”  
- Emily Bullington, a sophomore and chemistry major



“Strawberry Lumps. I think that’s from an episode of iCarly. First stop is Atlanta’s Pug Fest.”  
- Libby Maneol, a sophomore and outdoor education major